

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5450
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
CSAF WASHDC/LGF

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5592

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS EC
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL IMET FUNDING FOR ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 5591 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH
ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) IN WAKE OF DENIAL OF SALE OF HARDWARE,
AND AS RESPONSE TO APPEAL MADE BY BG LEORO AT TIME OF MRS.
CARTER'S VISIT IN JUNE, I REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF
INCREASING IMET GRANT TO ECUADOR TO PERMIT FUNDING THREE BASIC
TRAINING SLOTS IN CONUS IMMEDIATELY AND FURTHER PILOT TRAINING
IN FUTURE YEARS. I WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE ASAP IN ORDER TO
BE ABLE TO RASIE THE SUBJECT IN MY MEETING WITH LEORO IN NEAR
FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF ASSESSING PROS AND CONS OF OFFERING
THE AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM TO THE GOE, MY STAFF HAS BEEN
STUDYING POSSIBLE MEANS TO DEFLECT NEGATIVE REACTION IN WAKE
OF OUR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE HARDWARE SOUGHT BY THE GOE.
THOSE EFFORTS HAVE DEVELOPED AROUND TWIN CRITERIA OF 1) MAIN-
TAINING SOME CREDIBILITY WITH AND ABILITY TO INFLUENCE
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ATTITUDES WITHIN THE MOST-AFFECTED SEGEMENT OF THE GOE (E.G.,
THE AIR FORCE--FAE); AND 2) HEWING TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S
ARMS SALES POLICY.

3. I HAD INTENDED TO PRESENT RESULTS OF THIS STUDY TO
DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH MY RECOMMENDATION ON THE AIR DEFENSE
SURVEY TEAM AND IN A MANNER IN WHICH WE COULD CONSIDER ALL

OPTIONS CAREFULLY. SERIES OF EVENTS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL, HOWEVER, HAVE FORCED MY HAND. I MUST CALL ON FAE COMMANDER LEORO IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND DISCUSS WITH HIM BOTH AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM AND OUR RESPONSE ON I-HAWK AND INTERCEPTORS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE THAT I BE ABLE TO OFFER LEORO SOMETHING POSITIVE, IF THE USG HAS ANY INTEREST IN RETAINING A POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FAE.

4. I BELIEVE THERE IS AN AREA WHERE WE CAN MAKE A POSITIVE GESTURE TO LEORO AND THE FAE WITHOUT CONTRAVENING OUR ARMS SALES POLICY: THE TRAINING PROGRAM. THE FAE IS EMBARKING ON AN AMBITIOUS PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. AFTER FAILING TO RECEIVE SUFFICIENT GRANT FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE FAE COMMITTED SOME \$2 MILLION OF ITS OWN FUNDS TO BUY UP TO 25 BASIC TRAINING SLOTS FROM THE USAF. LEORO IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS TRAINING AND ITS COST. HE MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA TO MRS. CARTER FOR ADDITIONAL USG GRANT TRAINING FUNDS DURING HER VISIT IN JUNE. I BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD RESPOND VERY POSITIVELY TO AN OFFER BY US OF ADDITIONAL IMET FUNDS TO BE DEDICATED TO THE TRAINING OF FAE PILOTS IN THE US. SUCH AN OFFER WOULD NOT ONLY EASE THE FRUSTRATION RISING FROM REJECTION OF HARDWARE REQUESTS, BUT WOULD ALSO BE SEEN AS RESPONSIVENESS BY THE USG TO LEORO'S REQUEST TO MRS. CARTER.

5. APART FROM THESE ISSUE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS, A COMPELLING ARGUMENT FOR INCREASING ECUADOR'S IMET FUNDING CAN BE MADE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS MERITS. ECUADOR'S IMET ALLOCATION IS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE HEMISPHERE AND IS LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THE LEVEL GRANTED TO PERU. ECUADOREANS ARE AWARE OF THIS DISPARITY AND SEE IT AS ANOMOLOUS, GIVEN PERU'S PURCHASE OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT. THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TO MAINTAIN A ROUGH PARITY BETWEEN FMS CREDIT LEVELS FOR PERU AND ECUADOR, A POLICY WHICH COULD LOGICALLY AND BENEFICIALLY BE APPLIED TO IMET FUNDING AS WELL.

6. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, I REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING ECUADOR AN INCREMENTAL SUM OF IMET FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PILOT TRAINING IN THE US. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

--AN IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION FOR THREE PILOT TRAINING SLOTS (APPROXIMATELY \$225,000) IN FY 77 FOR FALLOUT FUNDS. THIS WOULD BE OF IMMEDIATE BENEFIT AND COULD BE USED FOR THE THREE ECUADOREANS WHO ARE EMBARKING ON TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER FINANCED BY FAE.

-- IN ADDITION TO THE IMMEDIATE GRANT, INCREASE ECUADOR'S FY 78 IMET BY \$500,000, TO A TOTAL OF \$900,000, WHICH WE WOULD

EARMARK FOR PILOT TRAINING. THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE CONTINUING
PARITY WITH THE PERU IMET PROGRAM; AND

--CONSIDER SIMILAR FUNDING CHANGES FOR FY 79 AND FOLLOWING
YEARS.

7. I RECOGNIZE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO
OBTAIN A FULLY STAFFED RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST IN THE SHORT
TIME REMAINING BEFORE I HAVE TO CALL ON LEORO. HOWEVER, I
BELIEVE THAT
MUCH IN OUR RELATIONSHIP COULD BE SALVAGED IF I
COULD PRESENT THE PROPOSITION TO LEORO IN TERMS THAT WE ARE
"SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERING" AN INCREASE IN GRANT TRAINING
FUNDS FOR PILOT TRAINING. I AM SURE THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING
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TO WAIT FOR A DETAILED RESPONSE. I WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE
THE DEPARTMENT'S BEST GUIDANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND PREFERABLE
BEFORE MY MEETING WITH LEORO ON AUGUST 24.
BLOOMFIELD

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